SEPTEMBER

1936

EDUCATION

A JOURNAL OF REPUTATION

FEATURE ARTICLES

NEWS AND COMMENTS

CAN HOT AIR AND VIOLENCE SOLVE HARLEM'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS?

By Carl W. Stephens

NEGRO NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES

By Oscar S. Nurse

THE PULPIT AND THE PEW

By Frank W. Jutes

THE POET-ACTRESS

POEMS

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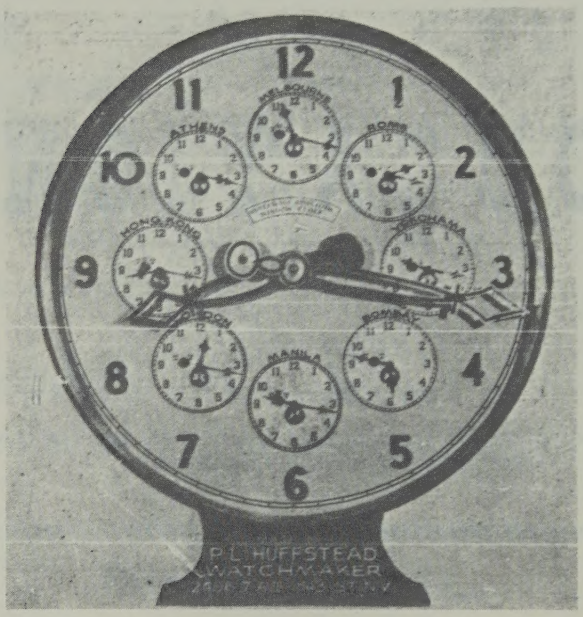

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GET OUT AND VOTE!

Well, we are back from our vacation up at the North Pole! To be frank, we are very sorry, for like the Polar bear, we like the cold weather and a lot of loafing. But guess, for our own good, we can't always have what we like.

And so, we know you folk would rather not be bothered with politics and voting, but for your own good you've got to be bothered.

According to available figures we understand that of a population of upward 300,000 people, only approximately 30,000 voted at the last general election. That was disgraceful! We don't want any such thing in Harlem any more unless you don't care whether or not the dump heap gets you.

We are not primarily concerned how you vote or whom you vote for—*BUT VOTE.* We have implicit confidence in your intelligence and whomever you vote for, that's your business—*BUT VOTE.*

Primary Day is September 15th—Get out, register and vote.

—:o:—

THANKS TO MAYOR La GUARDIA

On Saturday evening, August 3th, in Colonial Park, a swimming pool 236 feet by 82 feet, was thrown open to the public. This pool, with a water capacity of 841,000 gallons, accommodating 4,100 persons, is one of the most outstanding improvements in Harlem of the La Guardia administration. It serves as a source of beauty, employment and recreation. We cannot but think that against great odds, the Mayor is doing the best he can. The thanks of the community are due him and his able Park Commissioner, Robert Moses.

PLATFORM—*A* (1) The education of our people. (2) The advertisement of the virtues rather than the vices of our people

B (1) In view of the fact that discrimination hinders rather than aids the progress of a nation, the urgent need for employment of our people in more varied fields than now exists, is obvious. (2) In view of the rapid progress of our people since emancipation, inherent ability and competence as a part of their make-up cannot be justly denied. Consequently encouragement and promotion of Negro initiative and business on a larger scale.

C Whereas housing and housing conditions are deplorable and whereas unscrupulous landlords, taking advantage of the congestion which now exists in Harlem, have resorted to the exploitation of our people in the community, a peaceful, intelligent solution is advocated.

D Proper representation of our people in State and National legislatures.

E The promotion of amicable and friendly relationship among all people.

News and Comments

FOREIGN

LIBERIA

Liberia had a perfect right to feel proud in celebrating her 100th anniversary on July 27th last. While many nations were tearing themselves apart worrying over deficits and unbalanced budgets, Liberia had $130,000 surplus in her treasury. That is marvellous in view of the fact that up to 1926 she was "a capitalist State with no capital."

Says President Edwin Barclay, according to current reports: "Liberia will maintain her status as a Negro State in this age of imperialistic conquest."

Such a remark from Liberia's No. 1 man is also astonishing when one remembers that it was only a little over a year ago that it was rumored old Premier Herzog of South Africa had proposed Liberia as a gift to Herr Hitler.

We wish President Barclay and our Liberian brothers and sisters all the luck—they'll need it in this day and age.

ETHIOPIA

While Emperor Haile Selassie was resting easily or uneasily in London last week, word came from that capital that "a steady stream of ill and wounded soldiers is pouring into Djibouti daily from Ethiopia, seeking repatriation to Italy." The wounded men, said the report, "are the victims of constantly attacking guerrillas, who refuse to submit to the Italian yoke."

GERMANY

Jesse Owens finds himself in good company—the company of Mrs. Eleanor Holm Jarrett. Both were barred from participation in amateur sport contests—Mrs. Jarrett, before the 11th Olympiad; Jesse, after.

From all appearances, it seems that Mr. Avery Brundage, Chairman of the U. S. Olympic Committee, is out to ruin amateur sportsmanship in this country. One may understand and sympathize with his decision that Mrs. Jarrett drank too much champagne for her own good, but one fails to comprehend his objection to Jesse's "No, I can't run any more; I'm all tired out", in answer to the chairman's request that the Negro star runner run some more for exhibition after the Olympic was over.

If Jesse needs some free advice after he has won three Olympic championships, breakinig records and everything, for the United States, we heartily offer it: Follow the example of the fair lady in whose company you now are.

NATIONAL

The fight is on full force between the Old Deal and the New Deal.

The Old Deal has empowered preacher Lacey Kirk Williams of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church in Chicago as headman of the Western Negro vote and ex-New York Assemblyman Francis Ellis Rivers, big boss of the Eastern Lincolnites. The New Deal, appealing in a big way to the darkies of these regions, has lined up Representative Arthur W. Mitchell of Chicago for the West and Boston's Democratic chief, Julian D. Rainey, for the East.

The Old Deal, peeved that its opponent is "chiseling in", wonders, as expressed by Mr. Mark Sullivan, able columnist, "if the Negroes as a race will be wise to accept the solicitation of the Northern Democratic leaders." David M. Grant, Negro Assistant City Counselor of St. Louis unintentionally threw some light on the subject. Says Mr. Grant: "We started out less than two years ago and already have half of the 46,000 colored voters in this city. We have aroused more enthusiasm and done more work among the Negroes in two years than the Republicans did in twenty."

Incidentally, Grant's boss was the first Democratic mayor St. Louis had in twenty-two years—elected by a Negro majority vote.

——:o:——

Joe Louis made a comeback at the Yankee Stadium on the 18th of last month. He knocked Boston bartender, Jack Sharkey, cuckoo in the third round of their scheduled ten round fight. Says Master Louis after the fight: "I just wish that was Max Schmeling."

Don't worry, Joe, you'll get another chance to devour that pumpkin pie—if you can.

LOCAL

Dr. Petioni's Caribbean Union is actively engaged in civic and social welfare again. After raising money and supplies for the Ethiopian cause, the Union led a delegation of about twenty-four organizations to City Hall last month. Apparently, the size of the delegation frightened the Mayor, for nothing definite was elicited. "But," said Dr. Petioni, "another appointment with the Mayor is in prospect at which time I hope to have some good news for the press."

——:o:——

The local Democratic organizations have begun an early campaign.

It would appear from current reports that the Herbert Bruce—William T. Andrews order in the 21st A. D. is up against a tough proposition. Charles Conklin and Eustace V Dench, the reports say, are backing Anthony Graziano for the office of Assemblyman as opposed to Andrews.

We await the outcome which may be decided only by the primaries of September 15th, with the keenest interest.

——:o:——

The swimming pool in Colonial Park is hardly opened before rumors begin to circulate that T. Ashton, owner of Lido Pool, is going to sue the city for entering into competition with him.

Too bad, Mr. Ashton.

Can Hot Air and Violence

Solve Harlem's Economic and Social Problems?

By CYRIL W. STEPHENS

Recent occurrences of lawlessness and violence in Harlem have impelled me to look back to that fatal night of March 19th, 1935, when Negroes deviated from their traditional policy of watchful waiting and peaceful arbitration to set out on a mad rampage destroying and pillaging everything in their path. This act, though impulsive, was the outpouring of a pent-up feeling wrought by injustices that have been perpetrated against the Negro for the past 350 years by his white overlords and poor whites alike.

Cyril W. Stephens

Those who participated in this riot used this occasion as a means of making a direct protest against an unjust social and economic order that has consistently denied them the same opportunities for a livelihood as their white brothers, but at the same time expecting them to be upright, honest, decent, and respectable citizens, which is expecting too much of a social and economic outcast.

This act, though legally and morally wrong, did not receive the wholesale condemnation of the white population and press as was expected by the more thoughtful and conservative Negroes of the community who watched with bated breath and nervous expectancy for a repercussion.

On the contrary, it was conceded partially justified both by the liberal and conservative dailies, and even our bitterest enemy, the Hearst press, gave us its sympathetic approbation. City and State officials rushed investigating committees to find the cause of this outpouring of wrath. After many months of public hearing, a monumental 40,000-word document was compiled setting forth the economic, social, and civic plight of the Negro in all its ramifications.

The riot and the open hearings have focussed public attention on the fact that all is not laughter in Harlem, and that behind our dark laughter we are subtly hiding a bleeding heart and pained countenance. The investigators recommended much needed reforms, such as better housing, better schools, more opportunities to work in our community and more equitable relief.

Because on this particular occasion violence proved successful, it would seem that a certain irresponsible element in Harlem has been advocating the use of violence indiscriminately without any justified provocation against the white minority who either live, work, or do business in Harlem. The motives for these attacks are usually remote occurrences, as for instance, Italy's conquest of Ethiopia. Shortly after the conquest, a group of hoodlums, vandals, and alien agitators gathered on Lenox Avenue; after they had listened to many inflammatory speeches of their leaders, they broke into an Italian fruit store, smashed the windows, and threw fruits into the street; thereby wreking unjustified vengeance on a defenceless individual who was selling fruits on Lenox Avenue while the war was in progress in Ethiopia. There is no proof, whatsoever, that this man was even remotely connected with the conquest. On that eventful night of Friday, June 20th, when Joe Louis was knocked out by Max Schmeling, lawlessness again raised its murky head in Harlem. According to the newspapepr reports, after the fight was over, windows of business establishments were smashed and a lone white man set upon and badly beaten; other whites in the community were assaulted, automobiles were stoned as they were returning from the fight. Now, there was no justified reason for this demonstration of revenge, as Joe Louis was given all consideration and every opportunity to win his fight, and no fairminded person can deny that he was treated squarely, for after fouling Schmeling three times he was permitted to continue his fight.

On July 12th another riot broke out. The windows of an Italian restauranteur were broken, patrons, white and colored, were assaulted as they left the restaurant, a patrolman was seriously stabbed and many slightly wounded. This skirmish is also an off-shoot of the Italo-Ethiopian conflict.

These examples which I have cited are lawlessness pure and simple, and it is this type of behavior that will eventually eliminate the good racial feelings that we here in New York are privileged to enjoy. It may also alienate that spirit of helpfulness and sympathetic co-operation we are receiving from interested whites for our community and social betterment.

In making the above statements I am not unmindful of the fact that there is a great deal of unwarranted police brutality in Harlem, more so than in any other section of the community, and anything that I may say here is not condoning such acts. Neither am I in any way advocating a state of passive resistance in the face of an impending or active attack upon Negroes. Under such circumstances I believe in fighting to the last man even though outnumbered, but I am very cautious of attacking the majority group without provocation, for by doing so, you give them an opportunity of destroying us under the pretense of self protection against a dangerous force.

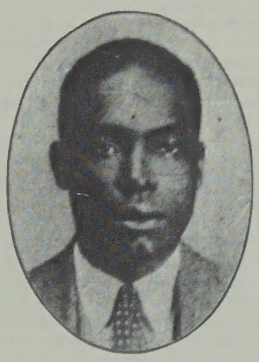
Therefore, it is not to the best interest of a minority group to resort to force against a majority group, for physical force is against our best interest, and a retaliation is always inevitable, and in the event that the majority decided to retaliate against us with violence we would be at their mercy for the majority is always better prepared to use force and use it more effectively, for they control the means of production and dis-

(*Continued on page* 8)

Negro Newspapers and Magazines

By OSCAR S. NURSE

Freedom of the press being one of the fundamental guarantees of a democracy, the great majority of American news publications as reflectors and moulders of public opinion, have become a series of indispensable guiding forces in our ultra-modern civilization. Not the least important of these zealous guardians of public interest, are the various circulating news mediums of Harlem, which represent the National Negro Press. Harlem with a population of approximately 300,000 souls including Negroes from all sections of the world, serves to provide Manhattan Island with its coveted title of "World Metropolis"



Oscar S. Nurse

Domiciled in a densely populated and restricted area, these African descendants, with a few minor exceptions, are held together by a common bond of language. Despite their racial background, like average Americans, existing under the prevailing scheme of things, these keenly sensitive groups feel that they are also fully entitled to the rights and privileges guaranteed by the Constitution of the land of which they have become an integral part. Hence, the varying needs of this segregated and similarly circumstanced minority present a task which requires the ever-increasing vigilance of an up-to-date Negro Press. Being mindful of this great responsibility the news mediums of Harlem are endeavoring to safeguard and defend the rights of the community. Whether these publications will eventually acquire from their public the necessary patronage to insure a well-merited self-supporting basis, is a question that only "time whose verdicts mock our own", can answer. Notwithstanding the great social aspct of news publications, they are business ventures operated primarily for financial gain. Highly-trained newspaper staffs, including editors, reporters, correspondents, feature writers, etc., to say nothing of operating equipment and other incidentals, create obligations that must be met in terms of dollars and cents. Even the most public-spirited publisher will readily admit that circulation among the favored few who occupy the seats of the mighty, enhanced by the distinguished literary tone of his product, may acquire added prestige which, however, is of no material benefit unless it produces the necessary income to defray expenses.

It is an established fact that the majority of Manhattan's white dailies and periodicals are adequately supported in proportion to the majority population. Unfortunately, however, Negro organs do not get a corresponding response from the Harlem public. One of the arguments advanced for this alarming lack of reader-interest is that the contents of Negro weeklies are mainly a series of "stale-news" items derived from the all-important metropolis dailies, supported by screaming headlines depicting sensational occurrences.

Whether the display of flaming headlines—a popular practice among the majority of modern newspapers—is profitable, or whether alleged sensational news-stories have a tendency to capture reader-interest, are questions best answered by the various circulation managers. An impartial study of the peculiar temperament of metropolitan readers, including Harlemites, would show that Manhattan's reputedly sensational news-organs attract a proportion of readers that far outnumber some of the leading conservative dailies. It is therefore logical to assume any publication (colored or white) capable of presenting to the public what it apparently wants, should get abundant results; besides, it is a well-known fact that the character of a newspaper is largely determined by the activities of its readers.

The charge of re-printing "stale-news", however, deserves a more specific answer. In the first place, in addition to brilliantly written editorials and feature articles, the leading weeklies of Harlem, to say nothing of the monthlies, carry important dispatches from the Associatetd Negro Press Service. Secondly, they publish many articles dealing with Negro problems which never appear in the white press. One of the most notable contributions of this nature, was the recent exclusive publication by the New York Amsterdam News of the entire 35,000-word report by Mayor La Guardia's bi-racial Commission, on conditions in Harlem which, it is alleged, led to the historic March 19th, 1935 riot. Irked by the Mayor's repeated refusal to release its amazing disclosures, except in part, to the mertopolitan press, the commission, therefore, secured the aid of the most dependable means of placing the report before the eyes of the parties concerned. Such exclusive public service by local news mediums should subordinate all apparent shortcomings, but it is peculiar to human nature to minimize the commendable phases of a given issue, while microscoping into alarming proportions the relatively trivial matters. Reviewing or re-printing the week's happenings is, after all, the accepted duty of all well-edited weeklies. The Sunday editions of the white dailies with their magazine and book-review sections constitute a fair example of what a standard weekly should be. The fact that a Negro weekly may carry items which have already appeared in the daily press, augmented by the fact that nothing ages so quickly as news, does not decrease or overshadow the priceless value of revealing some hitherto undiscovered or wilfully neglected angle of a news story. Moreover, until such time as the oft-tried venture of operating a Negro-owned daily in Harlem, can be sucecssfully accomplished, our sole recourse for accurate Negro news is our weekly and monthly publications.

There is no news in the fact that certain metropolitan dailies, actuated by partial policies, despite the well known

(*Continued on page 6*)

JOHN DOE SAYS

According to Dr. Collins in "Doctor Looks at Love and Life."

"One of the reasons this country had a Washington and a Lee, a Franklin and a Lincoln, an Emerson and a Thoreau, a Poe and a Whitman, a Vanderbilt and a Vail, is that they were not brought up in hothouses; they were not swaddled in silks and furs. Their colds did not cause their parents panics, and their bilious attacks were not beyond the reach of sulphur and molasses. They were not rushed to the mountains or the sea when the sun grew hot, or to Florida when the days grew cold. They were allowed to meet the hazards of life, and made to rely in a measure on their own invention to surmount them. They had to face the problems which God or man, fate or accident, set them. But today we solve them for our children, and then we wonder or weep when our children cannot solve those problems which present themselves after they have flown from the nest, or are making ready to fly.

"We display an anxiety about the physical welfare of our children which would be justified were they made of sugar, salt or tobacco. We shelter them until their twelfth year from all outside influences that we can thwart, and even then we strive to keep their contact with the world very limited. During this plastic age they are studiously kept from contacts, environment and experience that would stimulate their emotional growth and invigorate it. Then we are astonished that many of them are punies, parasites, perverts. If parents lack vision and perspective, how can we expect children to possess qualities that must be bred into them unconsciously, with the first smile and the first frown?"

—:o:—

DATES OF FIRST OCCURRENCES

Letters invented by Memnon, the Egyptian, 1822 B. C.

Linen first made in England, 1253; the rich people wore linen, the poor woolen.

Looking glasses made only at Venice, 1300.

Magnifying-glasses first made in England by Roger Bacon, 1260.

Matches, friction, first used in 1829.

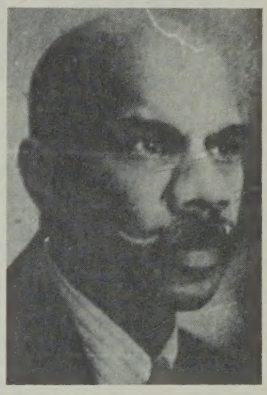
All People's Party

Mr. Donelan J. Phillips

The All People's Party has marshalled its forces to attack "conditions as they now exist in Harlem."

At a meeting last Friday night in the local branch of the Y. M. C. A., two candidates were nominated and one sponsored. The candidates nominated were Mr. Angelo Herndon, well known Communist of Georgia chain gang fame and Mr. Horace I. Gordon, independent Democrat and brilliant young attorney. The candidate sponsored was Mr. Vito Marcantonio, Republican.

Mr. Herndon was nominated for the office of Assemblyman of the 21st A. D.; Mr. Gordon, for the office of Assemblyman of the 19th A. D.; and Mr. Marcantonio to succeed himself as Congressman of the 20th Congressional District.



Dr. Charles A. Petioni

Both nominees decried "conditions as they now exist in Harlem." Mr. Gordon receiving a great cheer from the audience when he said "We must not only talk about bettering conditions in the community; we must see to it that conditions are bettered."

But the spirit of the evening was a lady whose name was Miss Holman. This lady referred to Theodore Roosevelt as "a friend of the Negro." "Yes, a friend of the Negro," shouted Miss Holman. "Theodore Roosevelt said," she continued, 'the Negro is a political onion. Onions give flavor to soup. But when the soup is ready to serve we strain off the onions, leaving the soup richer for the onions being there'." The speaker's voice died away only to rise again after a moment's pause, doubled in volume: "We are political onions, but we are going to see to it from now on that we are not strained from the political soup."

How You Vote is your business. But VOTE!

Attorney Horace I. Gordon

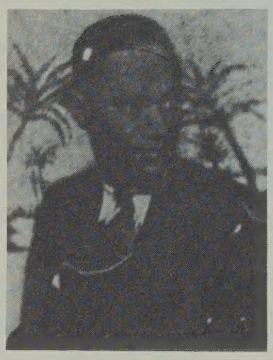
The meeting was called to order by Donelan J. Phillips, Chairman of the All People's Party, and presided over by Dr. Charles A. Petioni.

The Pulpit and the Pew

Again, the White Man shows us the way!

By FRANK W. JILES

This is indeed the age of wonders. Each day with it brings some new and startling evidence of man's (the white man's, if you please!) determination to push onward, out of the wilderness and darkness of ignorance into the wholesome and pure light of truth. Just when we think that these wonders have ceased, we are made aware of the fact that they are without end. It is not necessary to enumerate the list of such wonders; we all read the daily papers, even if they are Hearst papers! Nevertheless, a partial list wouldn't hurt. We have preventive medicine, which has added years to millions of lives; we have the radio, an endless source of pleasure and education to millions; and we have here, in this country, a President who is actually trying to make this a nation of the people, by the people and for the people!



Frank W. Jiles

No one in his right mind will even try to deny that these are really wonders at which posterity will truly marvel. Yet, in a sense, they pale into insignificance in comparison to the latest of wonders. This latest wonder was revealed to the world this week. And mind you, it came from the pen of a clergyman. He dared to venture forth upon heretofore unchartered seas when he urged that a moratorium be called on the preaching of sermons for one or two years!

According to a news item appearing in the pages of the New York World-Telegram of August 10th, the Rev. Dr. Frederick S. Fleming, Rector of historic Trinity Parish, feels that it is not only advisable that this be done, but that it is necessary! The good Doctor explains his reasons for this demand in the preface to a 350-page chronicle, the Trinity Year Book. He calls contemporary church sermons, "religious pep talks sailing forth under the guise of being inspirational!" Perhaps hundreds of thousands of Negroes have thought the same thing, Sunday after Sunday, but would not have put it into words for all the rice in China! And the good Doctor further stated that he felt that both the pew and the pulpit would welcome such a respite. He may be right as far as our pews are concerned but there is some doubt about our pulpits welcoming such a respite.

Now, when a white man of the cloth, a member of the group which gave us this type of religion, feels that it is necessary for them to have a breathing spell from its effects and noise, it is certainly high time that we do likewise. If it is good for them to take time out in order to clear their heads, goodness knows we need it more than they do! Even an intelligent child can visualize the tremendous benefits that we, a spiritually rich but materially poor group, would derive from a moratorium on preaching lasting, let us say, over a span of two years. Why, we would be a new people at the end of that period of time!

Almost immediately after the granting of this respite from the preacher's tongue lashings and recitals of "dry bones in the valley," we would begin to think; to think as a people should in a world wherein thought is the primary requisite for progress and equality. The second great benefit would be, that after having learned to think calmly and intelligently on local, national and international affairs and problems, we would become better citizens. A good citizen is one who not only consumes a country's resources, but one who produces and tries to own land!

If religious fervour and shouting made people good and prosperous citizens our Uncle Samuel would embrace us as his favorite nephews and nieces instead of shunning us as a race of beggars and complainers. Therefore, it is imperative that all Negroes demand this moratorium on preaching from their ministers. And they should not allow themselves to be held off or stalled by any sweet talk. Now is the time to strike; now is the time to prove to the world and to America that we die of the same maladies that kill white folk and that we thrive as they do on the same good and wholesome things of life. In other words, friends, let us show them that we can follow them in this good movement as we have followed them in some of their bad ones.

Negro Newspapers and Magazines

(*Continued from page* 4)

arguments regarding the ethics of journalism, follow a practice of suppressing or minimizing important Negro news. A case in point was the subtle treatment of news of the Forsythe-Anderson (1935) Pan-American good-will tour, by a popular white daily. Buried on an inside page, under the caption: "American Aviators arrive at Virgin Islands", the tragically brief details of a courageous flight—the first of its kind attempted by Negroes—were given with the notable omission of the fact that the fliers were colored. Further evidence of this unfair custom was recently brought to light by a reputable Harlem columnist who took a white editor to task for failing to mention the racial identity of E. Simms Campbell, when the latter won a $1,000 prize contest awarded by a prominent evening publication. However, if either of these Negro notables or one of their less fortunate brothers, through circumstances beyond their control, had run afoul of the law, their identity

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The Poet - Actress

A Personal interview with Miss Mercedes Gilbert

By HARRY T. STEWART

A golden personality, pleasant, unassuming, in spite of the glory that is rightfully hers for the stellar performances given daily by her in Langton Hughes' play "Mulatto." Such was the person met by yours truly when it was his pleasure to interview Miss Mercedes Gilbert in her home at 101 West 115th Street, New York City.

Miss Mercedes Gilbert

Miss Gilbert, as "Cora Lewis", common-law wife of "Colonel Norwood", in "Mulatto", is performing so remarkably and being so well received by different audiences that both author Langston Hughes and producer Martin Jones predict a long run at the Ambassador Theatre, West 49th Street where "Mulatto" has now been running more than eleven months. Miss Gilbert who succeeded the late Rose McClendon, was handed her script on a Saturday evening and played her first performance the following Tuesday, having had only one rehearsal. This demonstrates her capacity and ability.

Miss Gilbert was born in Jacksonville, Fla., is a graduate nurse and worked at this profession for a short time in New York City. Her theatrical career started back in silent picture days. Among others she played in the pictures "The Call of His People," "Secret Sorrow" and with Paul Robeson in "Body and Soul."

Among other Broadway productions, Miss Gilbert played in "The Lace Petticoat", "Lost", "Bamboola" and "Green Pastures."

Miss Gilbert's unquenchable thirst for action has led her into other fields—poetry, short story and song writing. Among her songs are "Decatur Street Blues" and "Also Ran Blues". A book of poems by her, "Selected Gems" was recently published by a Boston firm. Her latest novel "A'nt Sarah's Wooden God" will be off the press in about two months.

Miss Gilbert has also written for the Associated Negro Press. She is a member of the Olympic Committee for the 11th Olympiad, being held in Germany at this writing, which is something to be proud of, considering the showing made by our boys.

From the varied fields of art one may see that Miss Gilbert was born to give expression to her inner self, born to be what she is—a versatile artist. May she continue her success.

We publish below "True Worth" from "Selected Gems," by Miss Gilbert.

—:o:—

TRUE WORTH

By MERCEDES GILBERT

What are riches, that I should crave,
And cannot carry beyond the grave?

What is fame, that soon passes by?
It cannot my redemption buy.

Riches and fame, oftimes at great cost
Are hard to find, and easily lost.

They are the passing gifts of earth,
But at death, as at birth,

It is only the soul
That has true worth.

—:o:—

AN ANGEL

By A. L. BLACKMORE

She is like a tender, blooming flower
With eyes divine; and so he came
To think her during every hour
An angel clad in mortal frame.
She speaks! He is bewitched, and not from choice
He hears in dream—'tis love's command;
The sweetness of her cultured voice
Lulls as the songs of fairyland.

Why can't a dream of sunny skies
And fragrant flowers forever be?
Sad tidings loom in soft brown eyes.
O, cold and stern reality,
You often hurt, but you are true.
A lucid, twinkling, pretty star
That brightly gleams in pleasant view
May seem so near, but yet so far.

—:o:—

THE POET

By H. S. McFARLAND

A restless, roving, longing breath of air
That strayed from planets unknown to this sphere
To masquerade in human form and shape
For but a little while, then seek escape!

A breath of air enjoying life on earth,
Accepting pain and sorrow at their worth,
Rememb'ring, soon again, it will be free
To travel on and on eternally!

Can Hot Air and Violence Solve Harlem's Economic and Social Problems?

(*Continued from page 3*)

tribution. Then, numerically, we are placed at a great disadvantage in this metropolis, for out of a total population of 7,363,624 persons, our numbers consist roughly of about 300,000 Negroes; and we are sparsely divided among the five boroughs as follows:—

	Whites	*Negroes*
Manhattan	1,631,256	224,670
Bronx	1,251,747	12,930
Brooklyn	2,488,448	68,921
Queens	1,059,680	18,609
Richmond	155,594	2,576

Realizing this situation, we should learn to be realistic by cultivating the spirit of sportsmanship, fairplay, and tolerance towards others of the majority group who find themselves at certain times as a minority among us. Before being pugnacious, we should always bear in mind that Harlem is not self-contained nor self-sustained, and, as we all know, we are forced to seek our livelihood outside our own community, and when we do this, we are at the mercy of the whites in their community.

And let us note right here that a retaliation has already begun against members of our race by Italians in their community. According to the "New York Age", O. Richard Reid, a well-known artist, who has painted portraits of such outstanding citizens as H. L. Menken, and former Police Commissioner Mulrooney, was set upon and beaten by a group of Italians in Greenwich Village on Friday night, July 10th. Mr. Reid returned to Harlem on Saturday morning after spending a night in St. Vincent's Hospital. Here is the type of representative citizen who is made to suffer for the rash acts of some irresponsible blackguard.

Another excuse offered for these continued acts of violence, is that Harlem wants to become economically strong, and the only way to achieve this end of economic sufficiency is to dislodge all the white merchants who do business here. But trying to accomplish this act by force, such as breaking their windows or assaulting them, will not solve the problem. The Negroes of this community have a more dignified and effective weapon at their command. I refer specifically to the economic boycott. The use of this weapon to achieve maximum efficiency needs education, organization, and strict administration, but the Negroes of Harlem are so disorganized economically that it is very hard to get them to organize for the purpose of using this deadly weapon that sends shivers down the spine of every unscrupulous business man.

On the other hand, when these merchants have decided to leave Harlem, the Negroes who are advocating their exit should be in a financial position to take over their businesses, and to render the same kind of efficient and understanding service to the community that these people are giving—such as, the friendly word, personal accommodation, the unusual touch of efficiency, and the novel attraction that induces people to patronize you. This is the kind of service that makes for better business, and if these Negroes are not preparing to give customers this kind of consideration, then they are wasting time and energy in their attacks on these merchants, for they will only be driving out one set of white merchants for another set to take their places. From past actions, I am hoping that these Negroes who are advocating violence are not working for ulterior motives under the guise of community and racial betterment.

On account of these continued civic outrages, Harlem is today policed as an armed camp. There are more police here than in any other section of the city. Recently a delegation of representative citizens called on the Mayor to have these extra policemen removed. He turned a deaf ear to their pleas and politely told them that the policemen were going to stay until Harlem saw fit to purge itself of this troublesome element and redeem itself as a self-respecting and law-abiding community.

This statement is a direct challenge to the intelligent and socially-minded people of Harlem. The question that is being asked is, "Can Harlem solve this knotty problem?" I think she can, and as a Harlemite, I would suggest that we organize vigilant committees within our group for the purpose of launching a vigorous campaign against lawlessness. We should band ourselves together to help the authorities prosecute any individual or group that is bent on bringing disgrace on the fair name of Harlem, or to disrupt in any way the peaceful interracial relationship that at present exists.

I am beginning to believe that this window-smashing act is a racket engineered by those interested in the plate glass business. This phase of the situation should be carefully watched and agents caught in the act should be prosecuted to the limit. Then we should have an educational campaign, which could be sponsored by preachers, teachers, parents, and social workers for the purpose of enlightening the community as to the sanctity of property rights and the unjust use of force. Harlem has solved many of her problems in the past. Will she solve this one, or is she willing to continue to be stigmatized by the other sections of the city as an irresponsible community?

—:o:—

Negro Newspapers and Magazines

(*Continued from page 6*)

would have been revealed in no uncertain terms. This deplorable treatment of Negro news tends to acquaint foreign observers with only the unpleasant side of a much-maligned minority. Hence the tendency on the part of the uninitiated to accept the Amos and Andy radio sketch and Carl Van Vechten's fantastic episode of Harlem night life "Nigger Heaven", as a criterion of Negro conduct in America. Under the circumstances, the conspicuous absence of a Harlem Negro daily, makes it the undisputed right and duty of Negro weeklies and monthlies to check-mate certain white publications by preparing and presenting to their readers the actual truth regarding the local, national and international phases of Negro life. As a means to the end, Negro publications warrant the united support of their readers in form of adequate quality and quantity circulation which would raise advertising value and insure profitable financial returns. Such cooperation on the part of a race-conscious public would enable a Negro publisher with an alert sense of news values to enlist the services of the best available writers of both races whose contributions would help to educate the masses and thus prepare them for their rightful place in our highly-complicated modern society.

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